

DD/O. 80-2820

Executive Registry

80-1493

REC'D 10 JUNE

STATOTHR

June 3, 1980

The Honorable Stansfield Turner
The Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C. 20505

Dear Admiral Turner:

Recently I have felt that much more needs to be said about our effort in Vietnam. The diffidence with which we have approached foreign affairs since 1975 as a consequence of our defeat in Vietnam should be replaced by a robust self-confidence in American power and purposes. In fact, we accomplished far more in Vietnam, and the South Vietnamese were far more worthy allies, than is generally believed. Consequently, to add a different perspective to public understanding of the lessons of Vietnam I now plan to write a volume discussing my years as Ambassador in Saigon.

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To help me in this endeavor I have asked [redacted] who worked in Saigon for [redacted] and then for [redacted] during my time as Ambassador, to help me. As you may know, [redacted]

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[redacted] one of our more sensitive and effective Asian hands. While most of the book will reflect materials in my personal files, now in the State Department, Steve will need access to additional material to add documentation where necessary and to check my own records against other documents. I understand that the Department of the Army, Center for Military History, has custody of government records from Vietnam but that authorization for access to such material must also be given by the Central Intelligence Agency.

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The Honorable Stansfield Turner June 3, 1980

It is important to my project that Steve receives such a clearance. I would appreciate it very deeply if you could inform me as to the steps necessary for him to receive such permission and, even more, if you could indicate the most expeditious manner in which the clearance can be authorized.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ellsworth Bunker".

Ellsworth Bunker

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Ellsworth Bunker Request

FROM:

EXTENSION

NO.

DATE

155 80-427/1
16 June 1980

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

1.

C/IMS

6/18/80

Y/no

2.

DC/ISS

3.

C/ISS

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Distribution

1 - OPC

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12.

1 - OS/SAG

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In conversation with AC/IPD on 13 June 1980, he agreed to share his proposed response to Ambassador Bunker. It is my understanding that these general requests for historical access are discouraged and alternatively, the individual is urged to submit specific items for classification review.

In the letter which is to be prepared for the DDCI's signature as Acting Director, AC/IPD and I agreed that it would be appropriate to remind the Ambassador that if there is CIA material in his so-called "personal files," we would like an opportunity to review the book. If our experience with Ambassador Graham Martin is any guide, what is euphemistically characterized as "personal files" is material that is believed to be of significance which he has retained, albeit in classified containers at the State Department. I recognize that these projects are intermediate range but would suggest that the Office of Public Affairs, in its capacity as Chairman of the Publications Review Board, suspend and keep tabs on the progress and content on the next 12-18 months.